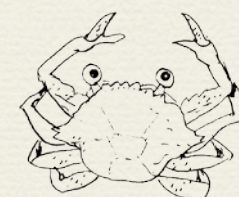




Geelong Days 2024



GEELONG DAYS 2024 ~ People, Nature and Future Linked by Tidal Flats ~

Issued by: Nagoya City Environmental Affairs Bureau

Fushimi Life Plaza 13F, 23-13 Sakae 1-chome, Naka-ku, Nagoya City 460-0008

Tel.: 052-223-1066 Fax.: 052-223-4199












Issued in: January 2025

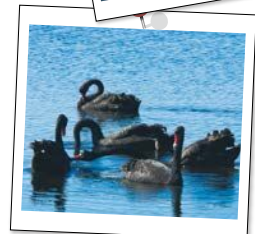
On March 24, 2024, 18 junior high school students from Nagoya City embarked on a journey to Geelong, Australia.

Taking off on an adventure to learn about environmental conservation!



(((((Contents)))))

-  2p • 3p Description of this Program
-  4p • 5p What is Fujimae Tidal Flat like?
-  6p • 7p Serendip Sanctuary / Melbourne Zoo
-  8p • 9p Barwon Estuary Heritage Centre / Sparrovale Wetlands
-  10p • 11p Ocean Grove Nature Reserve / Scenes from Geelong City
-  12p • 13p Courtesy Visit to Geelong City Hall
-  14p • 15p Exchange with Elementary School Children from Geelong City
-  16p • 17p Australia's Culture & History
-  18p • 19p ~ Everyone's impression ~ ①
-  20p • 21p ~ Everyone's impression ~ ②
-  22p • 23p Trip Memories Best 3



Introduction

Every two years, Nagoya City sends junior high school students to Geelong City, as part of a program that aims to foster individuals who can actively engage in environmental conservation. Although the program was suspended due to COVID-19, students were finally able to visit Geelong for the first time in six years.

This trip journal has been created by the participating students, who compiled reports to share their observations, experiences, and feelings from the trip. They also selected photos to accompany their entries.

We hope this trip journal allows readers to connect with faraway Geelong City and motivates them to reflect on environmental issues.

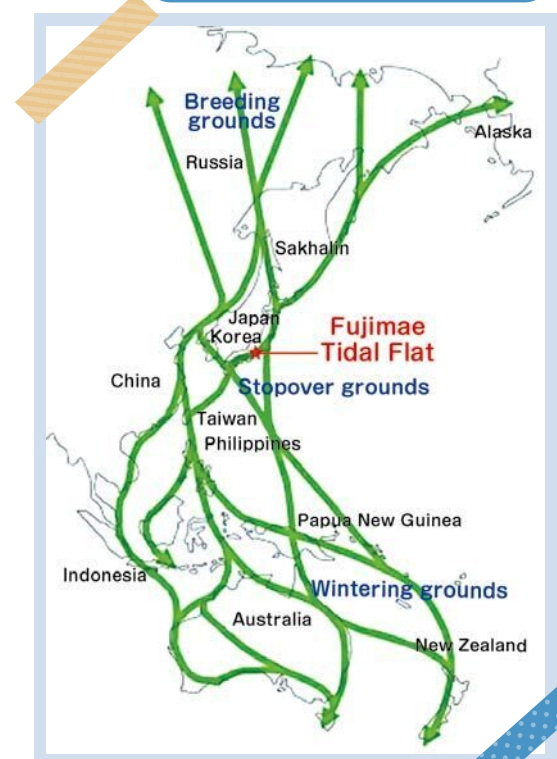
Ties between Nagoya City and Geelong City

The Fujimae Tidal Flat, located in and around Minato Ward, Nagoya City, is an important stopover ground for migratory birds on their long journeys. This area offers abundant food supplies for birds to rest and regain energy before migrating to Siberia and Alaska in the summer to raise their chicks, and to warmer regions like Australia in the winter.

Geelong is a city in Victoria State, located in southern Australia. On May 22, 2007, Geelong and Nagoya entered into a Wetland Affiliation Agreement to celebrate the marshlands connected by the migratory birds' flight path. Since then, they have been collaborating to conserve and utilize the wetlands.



Migratory birds' flight path



What is Fujimae Tidal Flat like?

~ What is Fujimae Tidal Flat? ~



It's lovely to find such vast nature in Nagoya City!

- Fujimae Tidal Flat (FUJIMAE HIGATA) is an expansive tidal flat covering 323 hectares in Nagoya Port, where the Shonai, Shinkawa, and Nikko rivers merge.
- This tidal flat emerges twice daily with the ebb and flow of the tides.
- The mudflats are home to various benthic organisms, including crabs and shellfish, which attract many migratory birds to feed on them.
- On November 18, 2002, Fujimae Tidal Flat was designated as a Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty aimed at protecting wetlands of international importance.

~ Visit to Fujimae Tidal Flat ~

We visited Fujimae Tidal Flat before and after our trip to Geelong. We learned many things through various experiences.

● History of Fujimae Tidal Flat

A representative from the non-profit organization Save Fujimae Association (now called the Fujimae Ramsar Society) told us about the history of Fujimae Tidal Flat.

In 1984, the City of Nagoya announced a plan to turn the Fujimae Tidal Flat into a garbage landfill. This was due to the increasing volume of waste generated in the city. The people who enjoyed birdwatching at Fujimae Tidal Flat heard about this plan and began taking action to protect this precious land. Their motivation started with the thought, "We do not want to fill the tidal land with the garbage we generate."

To raise awareness, they organized lectures and observation meetings to see the wildlife and educate the public that Fujimae Tidal Flat was an important place with many living things. They even invited the Mayor of Nagoya at the time to visit the site. They had three slogans for their activities:

- ① If you have time, donate your time; if you have money, donate funds; if you have knowledge, donate ideas.
- ② Conduct an easy-to-understand campaign based on convincing data.
- ③ Conduct a unique and fun handmade campaign.

As a result of these efforts, the plan to fill in the Fujimae Tidal Flat was canceled in 1999.

In February 1999, Nagoya City issued an "Emergency Declaration on Waste Management." Thanks to the collective efforts of many people to recycle resources and sort garbage, the city reduced the amount of waste collected by 20%, or 200,000 tons, within two years.



● Wild Bird Observation

The staff at the Nagoya City Birdwatching Center taught us about the relationship between Japan and Australia, about migratory birds, and about wildlife in Australia. We used the telescope at the Center to observe wild birds. We were amazed by the number of wild birds that inhabit the Fujimae Tidal Flat.



● Tidal Flat Exploration

Together with Gata Rangers (tidal flat rangers) from the Fujimae Ramsar Society, we entered the Fujimae Tidal Flat. We learned about the various creatures that inhabit the area. We noticed some differences compared to the Swan Bay Tidal Flats in Geelong, particularly the deeper water and the darker-colored mud. We saw many things once we entered the tidal flat, such as the numerous crab nests and the chilliness of the water.



● Wildlife we found at Fujimae Tidal Flat

Japanese mud shrimp

They make burrows that can be 2 meters long or more!

Dunlin

The sight of them flying is often referred to as "the jewel of the tidal flats."

Pagurus minutus (hermit crab)

Its right claw is larger than its left one!

Osprey

Often called flying fishermen, these picky eaters mainly feast on fish!

Let's protect Fujimae Tidal Flat together!

● Summary

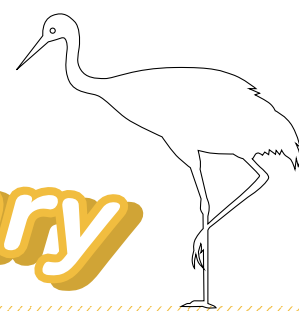
We felt that Fujimae Tidal Flat, with its historical background and large number of living creatures, is a very important place we must protect.

We discovered many things by actually visiting the Fujimae Tidal Flat. It is a fun place where you can have many valuable experiences. We hope you will visit Fujimae Tidal Flat as well.



- We would like to share what we learned at the facilities we visited in Geelong City.

Serendip Sanctuary



This sanctuary was established to protect wildlife in Australia.

During our visit, we were impressed by how open the sanctuary is, with no fences. Various measures have been implemented so the animals can thrive in a setting that resembles their natural habitat.

We were able to see energetic animals, such as kangaroos, up close.

The sanctuary conducts artificial breeding programs for wildlife at risk of extinction, aiming to increase population numbers.

To protect the wildlife, the entrance fences are equipped with “caps” to prevent foxes, natural predators of birds and small animals, from entering the sanctuary.



~ Wildlife we saw at Serendip Sanctuary ~



Wallaby



Red-rumped
parrot



Crested pigeon



Yellow-billed
spoonbill

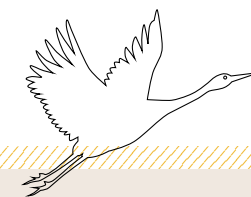


Sulphur-crested
cockatoo



Cape Barren
goose

Melbourne Zoo



Melbourne Zoo is Australia's oldest zoo. It features a variety of species native to Australia and many animals from around the world. We saw many animals we had never seen in Japan during our visit.



We learned what was different from Japanese zoos.

- At Japanese zoos, animals are mostly housed behind glass; however, at Melbourne Zoo, many were kept behind fences.
- The area inside the enclosures was much larger than those in Japanese zoos and was designed to resemble the animals' natural habitat.



From these things, we felt that the animals at the Melbourne Zoo experience less stress. The zoo seemed to be designed with the animals in mind rather than the people.

~ Animals we saw at Melbourne Zoo ~



Koala



Tasmanian Devil



Dingo



Emu



Wombat



Barwon Estuary Heritage Centre



The exhibits at this volunteer-run centre include taxidermy-mounted displays of birds, animals, and bird eggs native to Australia, as well as shells and other marine items collected from the seashore.



We had the chance to observe the size of the birds with their wings extended and examine living organisms through a microscope.

During this visit, we learned about Australia's native wildlife. Additionally, seeing photos of children studying along the seashore allowed us to understand the importance of coexisting with nature.

~ Displays we saw at the Barwon Estuary Heritage Centre ~



Taxidermy-mounted birds



Cats and foxes that eat wild birds and small animals



Baby seal



Sparrovale Wetlands

This 500-hectare wetland is next to the Barwon River and Lake Connewarre State Game Reserve.

In 2019, the City of Geelong City purchased this land to manage rainwater.

The Sparrovale Wetlands are home to various creatures, and the City of Geelong is dedicated to protecting the rare animals and plants that inhabit the area.

During our visit, we listened to an explanation about the wild birds and the wetland's flora and fauna. We observed how water is managed and took a walk through the wetlands.

The area is free from tall buildings, so we had an impressive 360-degree panoramic view.

The Sparrovale Wetlands are connected to the Lake Connewarre Wetland Complex, which is part of the Port Phillip Bay and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar Site.



~ Wildlife we saw at Sparrovale Wetlands ~



Australian pelicans



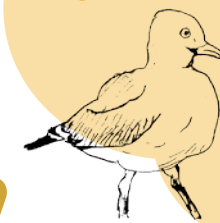
Wedge-tailed eagle



Brolga



Masked lapwings



Ocean Grove Nature Reserve

We learned about the efforts made to protect the hooded plover. This bird lays its eggs on sandy beaches along the ocean, which puts its nests at risk of being stepped on by humans or eaten by dogs. The hooded plover is currently listed as an endangered species. Local volunteers are dedicated to protecting the birds' nests by educating beach visitors about the birds and their nests and placing roof-like structures over the nests. We were impressed by their passion for nature.



Hooded plover ▶



~ Wild birds we saw at Ocean Grove ~



Silver gull



Greater crested tern



Australian magpie



Rainbow lorikeet

Scenes from Geelong City



Geelong City Hall

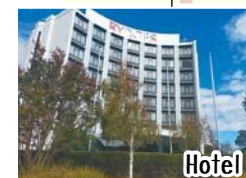


There were live sheep!

National Wool Museum



So much history!



Hotel

GMHBA Stadium



Church

Shopping mall

Geelong Gallery (art museum)

Geelong Station

Ocean

Geelong

~ Everyone's impression ~

It was a beautiful city with almost no litter on the streets. We could tell that the citizens of Geelong City are very environmentally conscious.



Courtesy Visit to Geelong City Hall

Mayor Trent Sullivan and many city employees warmly welcomed us at Geelong City Hall.



Speech by Mayor Trent Sullivan

Points

- Thank you for coming all the way from Japan!
- We are happy to see you after six years!
- Enjoy your time in Geelong!

We gave poster presentations on Nagoya and Fujimae Tidal Flat in English.

Group A's Presentation

Title

We love Nagoya &
History of Fujimae Tidal Flat

Description

Introduction of famous spots and food in Nagoya & the history of Fujimae Tidal Flat



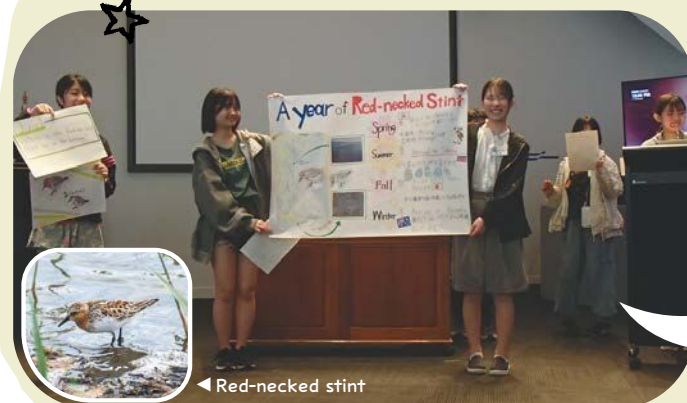
Group B's Presentation

Title

A year of Red-necked Stint

Description

A year in the life of the red-necked stint
Behavior of the red-necked stint in Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter
It travels back and forth between Australia, Japan, and Siberia



Group C's Presentation

Title

Garbage Problem
in Fujimae Tidal Flat

Description

Problems and initiatives regarding garbage in Fujimae Tidal Flat



We had lunch with the people of Geelong.
They told us, "Your English presentations were very easy to understand. I can tell that you spent time preparing the posters. It was wonderful!"

We received a present!



It features a hooded plover!



Group photo

We took a photo in front of Geelong City Hall.
We were very nervous about our presentations, but with lots of practice, we were able to do a good job.



Exchange with Elementary School Children from Geelong City

We had a fun exchange with Grade 5 and 6 students from Queenscliff Primary School in Geelong.



First impressions!

We exchanged introductions in English with each other.

We went into the Swan Bay Tidal Flat, which is registered under the Ramsar Convention, just like the Fujimae Tidal Flat.



The flats were much deeper than we anticipated, and some of us got stuck! We discovered shellfish, crabs, and small fish.

~ Wildlife we saw at Swan Bay Tidal Flat ~



Black swan



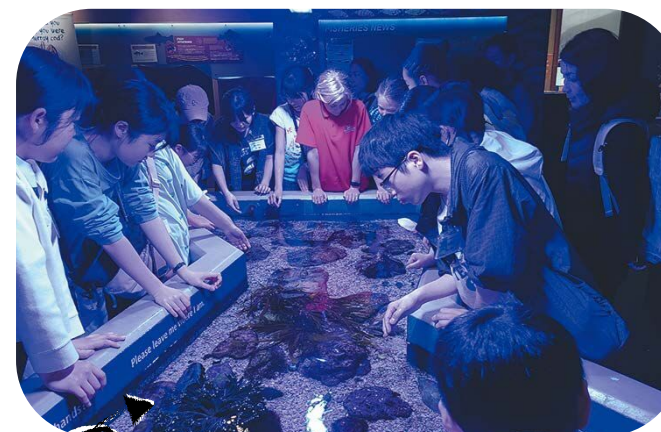
Little egret



Australian ibis



Little pied cormorant



Touching pool

We observed various marine creatures at the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre.



Feeding the seahorses

We gave our presentations again in English. We arranged the content for children by using easier expressions than our presentation at Geelong City Hall and giving a quiz.



The primary school students also gave a presentation to us.

- Introduction to Geelong City
- Favorite Japanese characters, etc.



Group photo

Many of the primary school students were familiar with living things. We could tell they had been in contact with nature from a young age. We thought maybe there were so many environmentally conscious adults because they had been in contact with nature from a young age.



Australia's Culture & History

Aborigines

Who are the Aborigines?

Aborigines are the Indigenous peoples of Australia. They have a rich culture, history, and language.

In recent years, it has become common to start events with an Acknowledgement of Country, which honors and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the land.

Geelong Civil Precinct

The phrase "Wurriki Nyal" is displayed at the entrance of the new Civil Precinct. It means "Speak and Talk Together." Artwork by Wadawurrung artists decorate the inside of the hall.



Melbourne Museum

The museum introduces Victoria's natural environment, culture, and history from various artistic perspectives.

There are also many exhibits about the Aboriginal people.



Food Culture

Australia was formerly a British colony, so the food culture is heavily influenced by British food. A typical Australian dish is the British fish and chips.

We had it twice during our trip. Deep-fried white fish, such as cod, is served with fried potatoes. The combination of the crispy coating and fluffy fish was very delicious.

We also tried other Australian food dishes, including hamburgers made of juicy meat and a melt-in-your-mouth beef stew served with mashed potatoes.



Fish & chips



Hamburger



Beef steak

National Wool Museum

Australia's Weather and Sheep

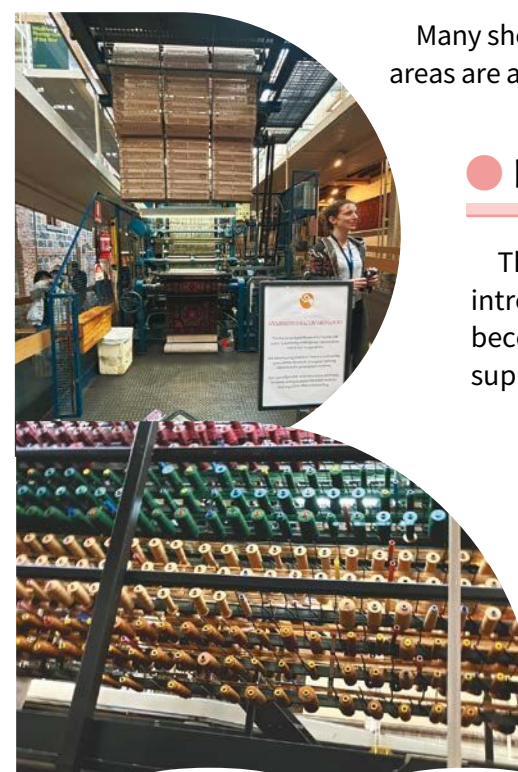
Many sheep are raised in Australia because the inland areas are arid, and sheep are well-suited to dry conditions.

Industrial Growth and Sheep

The Australian sheep industry began when sheep were introduced from England in the 18th century. It has since become one of the world's leading producers of sheep wool, supported by high demand for wool from overseas.

Technological Developments and Sheep

In the past, clipping shears were used to cut sheep wool. Today, electric cutters are commonly used, and some farmers have even begun using robots for shearing their sheep.



~ Everyone's impression ~

Geelong Days 2024

We have summarized our experiences and feelings from our six days in Geelong.



I was touched by how everyone participating in the program tried their best to speak English and thoroughly enjoy the local area. I learned a lot about the great nature of Geelong, as well as the conservation activities and initiatives carried out by both the public and private sectors. I plan to apply this experience in my future activities.

Leader, NPO Fujimae Ramsar Society

Rie Nishibu



Even at the pre-trip study sessions, I noticed a strong eagerness among the students to engage with one another. Everyone put in great effort, including delivering presentations in English.

I believe that the students were able to fully appreciate the connections between migratory birds and tidal flats. I am also grateful for this valuable experience. Thank you very much!

Leader, NPO Fujimae Ramsar Society

Kodai Kishi



It was impressive to see how the students worked hard, starting at the pre-trip study sessions and sharing information on the Fujimae Tidal Flat and Nagoya with the people of Geelong.

I look forward to seeing their future activities, as they have grown even more through the valuable experiences and exchanges they had during this dispatch program.

Leader, Nagoya City employee
Maki Saito



The junior high school students took the initiative and engaged actively in the study sessions and site visits. I hope they will share what they learned from this dispatch program with many others. Continue to challenge yourselves and explore new opportunities in the future.

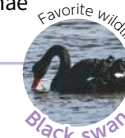
Leader, Nagoya City employee
Saki Watanabe



Title: My GEELONG DAYS

My goal when visiting Geelong City was to meet many new people and to learn. I did not know much about the living creatures, the environment, Geelong City, or Fujimae Tidal Flats. However, through interactions with many people, observing, and experiencing, I achieved my goal. What impressed me most about Geelong City was the warmth of its people. While shopping for souvenirs, I had trouble understanding the dollar and cent coins. Someone asked, "May I help you?" and explained the coins. I also had fun talking with the primary school students we had an exchange with. I would like to visit Geelong City again, especially after learning more about the Fujimae Tidal Flat and Nagoya.

Nagoya Municipal Arimatsu Junior High School
Yuna Umeda



Title: Taking the First Step by "Learning"

The local people were working hard to protect the birds, showing warm expressions of concern, as if they were protecting their families. I could see their enthusiasm for preserving the place where life begins. This made me realize that addressing small issues we might usually overlook can be the driving force behind taking that first step forward.

So, what can we do? We can stop once and take a look around us. I think it is important to share information about the issues we observe and to actively participate in related activities.

I will apply the experiences and knowledge I gained during this trip to face my future challenges.

Nagoya Municipal Oise Junior High School
Rin Oiwa



Title: Australian people's environmental awareness

One of the most memorable aspects of my dispatch trip was witnessing Australia's high environmental awareness level. I discovered that children in Australia grow up surrounded by nature, which allows them to connect with the environment from a young age and develop a strong environmental awareness. I found this surprising and even a bit envious. I was also impressed by the primary school students' knowledge about living creatures. I think this high environmental awareness contributes to the litter-free streets in Australia. I had many experiences on this dispatch trip and learned many things. From now on, I will strive to be more mindful of nature and environmental conservation.

Nagoya Municipal Wakamizu Junior High School
Koyori Onishi



Title: Far Away but Still Connected

My strong impression after visiting Australia was that "even though we are far away, we are still connected." At first, when I saw traditional buildings that were different from those in Japan and wallabies living freely, I felt as if I had jumped into a different world. However, during our exchange with the students at Queenscliff Primary School, we used simple English words and played Kendama together, which helped us connect in that moment. The red-necked stints we saw in the wildlife sanctuary were migratory birds from Japan. Seeing these birds made me realize that we are also connected through nature. This is true of environmental issues as well. However, to resolve these issues, we need cooperation not only from Japan but from the entire world. I hope to study English and environmental issues more deeply, interact with people from other countries, and strengthen our connections.

Nagoya University Affiliated Upper and Lower Secondary Schools
Akari Kawaguchi



Title: Differences in Perceptions of Nature

I was very impressed by the activities throughout Geelong City to protect nature. At the Serendip Sanctuary, the fence-less areas allow birds to walk right by us. Volunteers create signs and pamphlets to raise awareness about protecting the hooded plovers. In addition, primary school children grow up learning about the importance of tidal flats and nature. I felt that people's perspectives on and interactions with nature differ between Japan and Australia.

I want to share the importance of environmental conservation I learned on this dispatch trip with many people.

Nagoya Municipal Iseyama Junior High School
Myleen Kuriki

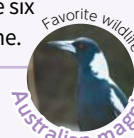


Title: Experiencing the Size of the Earth

I departed for my first overseas trip filled with both anticipation and worries, but now I only have wonderful memories.

My fondest memory was the exchange with the primary school students at Queenscliff. This experience allowed me to achieve my goal of "talking with many local people." I was deeply moved by our ability to communicate, which inspired me to want to learn English even more. I was also impressed by the beautiful city of Geelong, where I noticed very little litter on the streets. I could feel the local people's strong awareness of the environment. These six days were very stimulating and fulfilling for me.

Nagoya Municipal Hagiyama Junior High School
Miu Shimizu



Title: Rich Nature

My first impression of Geelong was how beautiful it was. I wondered how it was possible to protect so many species of animals and their ecosystems. I found the answer at Ocean Grove Beach. There is a bird native to Australia called the hooded plover, which is listed as an endangered species. At Ocean Grove Beach, where a few of these hooded plovers live, volunteers had built shelters and created posters to remind people and their dogs not to step on the plover eggs. From this experience, I realized that the efforts to create a safe environment for these creatures are the key to maintaining beautiful nature. My trip to Geelong was invaluable and wonderful!

Nagoya Municipal Tenpaku Junior High School
Ayaka Terumoto



Title: Lasting Impressions of My Trip

One of the most lasting impressions from my dispatch trip was the level of environmental awareness in Australia compared to Japan. At the Serendip Sanctuary, fences were installed to protect native Australian species from predators like foxes. I also learned about the local primary school children's interest in environmental issues and about various conservation activities. This made me realize that environmental awareness in Japan is still quite low. I plan to look for and implement actions to improve the environment, no matter how small, such as sorting garbage and conserving water and electricity.

Nagoya Municipal Showabashi Junior High School
Tatsuki Toyama



Title: What I Learned in Australia

One of the most memorable impressions from this dispatch trip was observing the high level of environmental awareness among the Australian people. Many trash cans were available in the Australian zoos and parks, so there was almost no litter on the ground. Additionally, there were many trees and plants planted. It was clear to me that the Australian people are trying to minimize harm to wildlife and nature. I want to contribute to reducing environmental problems by telling many people about the seriousness of environmental issues. I will also do my part, such as sorting garbage and using resources more responsibly.

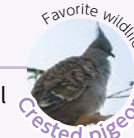
Nagoya Municipal Idaka Junior High School
Mei Hijikata



Title: High Awareness of Wildlife

On this trip to Australia, I was particularly impressed by the level of awareness of wildlife. Various activities to protect the wildlife were organized at every location we visited. First, at the Melbourne Zoo, the animals were displayed in manners that resembled their natural habitats. Compared to Japanese zoos, measures were taken to reduce stress on the animals, including spacious cages filled with many plants, trees, and flowers. At the beach, efforts were made to protect the hooded plovers. Some of these included informing visitors and placing shelters over the bird nests. I hope that many people will learn about these conservation efforts so we can create a more wildlife-friendly society.

Nagoya Municipal Nagara Junior High School
Joy Matsumoto



Title: To the World

There is something I felt very strongly about after participating in this dispatch trip. That is, the world is very big. Since elementary school, I have been involved with Fujimae Tidal Flat as a Gata Ranger Jr. I am interested in the ocean plastic pollution problem and participated in this dispatch trip. No matter how much Australia works to keep its cities clean, it will not make Japan clean, and the opposite is also true. The issues have multiple causes, and it is impossible to find them by oneself. However, I believe I can be someone who listens to the perspectives of the Fujimae Tidal Flat and other countries. I want to play a role in improving the world's environment. I will continue my involvement at Fujimae Tidal Flat to help make this a reality.

Nagoya Municipal Kamioka Junior High School
Hayu Nakata



Title: What I Learned in Australia

Before leaving for Australia, I set a goal: "to have plenty of interactions with the local people." I also aimed to learn about Australia's environment and the environmental issues in Nagoya. During my trip, I enjoyed exchanging experiences with local primary school children. I also had many encounters with locals in the city while shopping and so forth. These interactions were both valuable and enjoyable. I had a fantastic time on this trip, learning about the environment and engaging with the community. I made numerous new discoveries that I look forward to sharing with others.

Nanzan Girls' Junior High School
Sora Nakano



Title: Exchange with a Different Country

This trip was my first experience traveling overseas. My goal for this exchange was to "actively interact with people." I enjoy connecting with others, but I found that Australia's culture and language differed from mine. I cooperated with the 17 students participating in this program to engage with the local community. We had a fulfilling time interacting with local primary school students, discussing shared hobbies, and learning about the environment. I plan to apply this valuable experience to my future activities and share it with many people.

Nagoya Municipal Joshin Junior High School
Sakuya Mizuta



Title: My Impressions of Australia

Two things left a lasting impression on me during this trip. The first was the abundance of wildlife. In Geelong City, we encountered wildlife in various locations, including the Serendip Sanctuary, the town, and the beach. I was amazed by how close the wildlife was to people. The second was the scenery in Australia. The natural environment was vibrant, with numerous flora and fauna. I was also impressed by the large and colorful buildings.

Participating in this project with wonderful friends will be a lifelong memory for me. I will cherish this experience and continue studying environmental issues.

Nagoya Municipal Ozone Junior High School
Erina Morikawa



Title: Exchange with Primary School Students

Before leaving on this trip, I was looking forward to the exchanges with the local primary school students. Since it was easy to speak English at school, I thought it would be easy to have a conversation even overseas. However, when the exchange event started, my pronunciation was so bad and found it difficult to express my thoughts. Even when I managed to communicate something, the conversation would stop. Despite this, the primary school students did their best to explain the various living creatures to me, which helped me learn about the fish and shellfish. I was so happy with their efforts to help me understand. I realized that even if you can't find the right words, communication is still possible when everyone works to understand each other.

Nagoya Municipal Sawakami Junior High School
Shion Nakamura



Title: Communication

Communication with the local people during the dispatch trip left a lasting impression on me. I am not very good at speaking English, so I was worried about whether I could communicate well with the locals. However, the employees of Geelong City and the facility guides I talked with made an effort to understand what I was saying. I really enjoyed learning about the animals from the guides. I hope to apply this experience to my future activities.

Nagoya Municipal Ichiyanagi Junior High School
Towa Nishioka



Title: Thoughts Are Important

I had never been overseas before, so I was anxious, but I learned many lessons during this trip. During our exchange with the Queenscliff Primary School students, I noticed that the Australian children had strong personalities and lively energy. Although it was not easy to communicate because we spoke different languages, we were able to have fun through laughter and the presentations of our reports. We were able to convey our thoughts even without fully understanding each other. I want to study English more and have fun conversations with people from different countries. I plan to use this experience to broaden my perspective on the global environment and take action.

Nagoya Municipal Komagata Junior High School
Miku Yagami



Title: Protecting the Tidal Flats

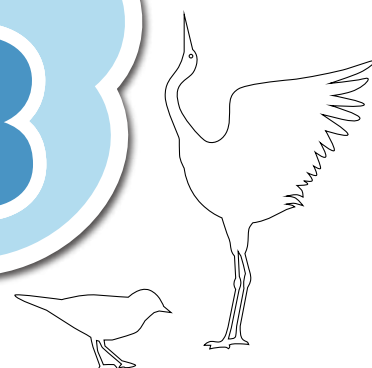
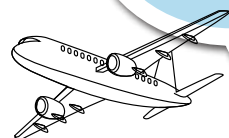
The visit to Swan Bay Tidal Flat with the local Queenscliff Primary School students left a lasting impression on me. It was my first time to go into a tidal flat. My feet got stuck in the mud, and I almost fell over. A local girl I became friends with pulled my hand and helped me. I felt reassured. Going into the tidal flat reminded me of the importance of protecting the habitats of living creatures, such as those in Swan Bay Tidal Flats. Participating in this dispatch trip helped me feel a deeper connection to nature.

Nagoya Junior High School Attached to Aichi University of Education
Maho Yamashita





Trip Memories Best 3



Q1 Most memorable places (Nature version)

- 1 Ocean Grove Nature Reserve
- 2 Swan Bay Tidal Flat
- 3 Serendip Sanctuary

The endless blue sea and skies at Ocean Grove were impressive.

Q2 Most memorable places (Facility version)

- 1 Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre
- 2 Melbourne Zoo
- 3 Melbourne Museum

We communicated with local primary school students in English at the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre.

Q3 Most memorable wildlife

- 1 Hooded plover
- 2 Australian magpie
- 3 Sulphur-crested cockatoo

The hooded plover is an endangered species that lives on the beach.

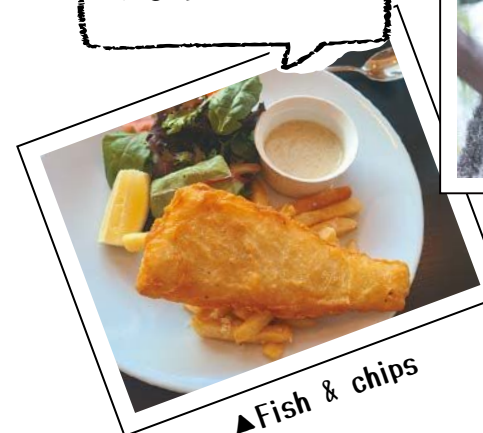
Q4 Most memorable food

- 1 Fish & chips
- 2 Hamburger
- 3 Crème brûlée

The fish & chips were delicious, although a bit heavy on the stomach.



Big portions!



▲ Fish & chips



▲ Koala

Super cute ♥



▲ Queenscliff

Kendama is fun!!!

Q5 Best souvenirs

- 1 Tim Tam
- 2 Plushies, dolls
- 3 Tea

Tim Tam chocolate biscuits come in various flavors, including caramel and coconut.

Q6 Brief impression of Fujimae Tidal Flat!

- 1 The water is deep!
- 2 The tidal flat is interesting!
- 3 There are lots of wildlife.

The water depth on the way to the tidal flat is thigh-deep at the deepest place.

Our Message

Protecting our local environment is connected to the preservation of the global environment.
Each person's awareness plays an important role in environmental protection. Why not begin with simple actions, such as engaging with living creatures and avoiding littering?
Taking your first step toward protecting the environment can help contribute to protecting the world's environment!

